



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

THE DIRECTOR

JUN 26 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: Susan B. Fruchter
Director, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning

FROM: Penelope D. Dalton *Penelope Dalton*

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No
Significant Impact - Turning Basin #3 Restoration
Project

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the lead Federal agency for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for the proposed Turning Basin #3 Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project, Duwamish River, Seattle, Washington. The cooperating agencies and tribes include the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, and the State of Washington. Participating governments also include the City of Seattle and King County. These participants are members of a combined natural resource trustee/potentially responsible party settlement implementation panel (EB/DRP) established under a natural resource damage assessment Consent Decree for Elliott Bay/Duwamish River Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDA).

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Department prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project and evaluated five alternatives, including the "no action" alternative. The public has been afforded several opportunities to review and provide input on the alternatives through public meetings and the State of Washington's environmental review process. NOAA and the cooperating agencies, tribes, and participating governments (EB/DRP) have concluded that the preferred alternative is Alternative 5, the excavation of three habitat benches with upland buffer vegetation and habitat improvements. This alternative is based upon best available technology and best meets the goals and objectives of the natural resource trustees by maximizing ecological benefits and minimizing potential adverse environmental impacts.

The EB/DRP proposes restoring aquatic and terrestrial habitat (Alternative 5) to a portion of Turning Basin #3 on the Duwamish Estuary/River. The proposed project, located at River Mile 5.2, would involve removing existing upland and inwater structures, and excavating the bank to create a total of three intertidal and supra-tidal habitat benches on a 0.82 acre site owned by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. Native intertidal and riparian vegetation would be planted to increase habitat and food for fish

THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES



and wildlife. The proposed alternative would provide the largest restoration area, maximize habitat diversity, and generate the greatest input of detrital material to the estuary. There would be short-term impacts to ambient noise levels and to vehicle traffic on West Marginal Place South during construction. In addition marine commercial and recreational traffic in the Duwamish River area would experience short-term impacts from heavy machinery and barges used during construction. Potential impacts to fish and wildlife species will be mitigated through construction windows and employment of best management practices (BMPs). Conversion of this site will benefit fish and wildlife, including chinook and chum salmon. Habitat restoration at this site would provide a more aesthetic view and allow for public education opportunities. No significant short- or long-term adverse impacts are anticipated to either the built or natural environment. No adverse impacts would occur to Federal or state listed species.

Based on the Environmental Assessment and supporting documents for the proposed Elliott Bay Turning Basin #3 Restoration Project, I have determined that no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment will result from the proposed action. I request your concurrence in the determination of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Attachments

I concur:

Susan Frier

Date: 6/29/00

I do not concur: _____

Date: _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Under Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUN 29 2000

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment - Turning Basin #3 Restoration Project and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

LOCATION: Duwamish River, Seattle, Washington

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the lead Federal agency for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for the proposed Turning Basin #3 Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project, Duwamish River, Seattle, Washington. The cooperating agencies and tribes include the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, and the State of Washington. Participating governments also include the City of Seattle and King County. These participants are members of a combined natural resource trustee/potentially responsible party settlement implementation panel (EB/DRP) established under a natural resource damage assessment Consent Decree for Elliott Bay/Duwamish River Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDA).

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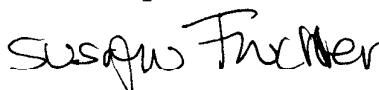


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RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Penelope D. Dalton
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, 14th Floor
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3226
Phone: 301/713-2239

The environmental review process led us to conclude that these restoration actions will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. A copy of the FONSI, including the EA is available from the Responsible Official.

Sincerely,



Susan B. Fruchter
NEPA Coordinator
Office of Policy
and Strategic Planning

Enclosure

Finding of No Significant Impact
Environmental Assessment - Turning Basin #3 Restoration Project
Duwamish River, Seattle, Washington

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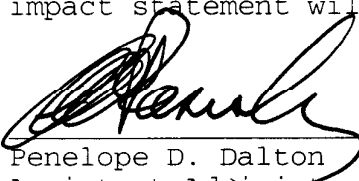
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DETERMINATION:

Based upon an environmental review and evaluation of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment and supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Date: JUN 26 2000



Penelope D. Dalton
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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